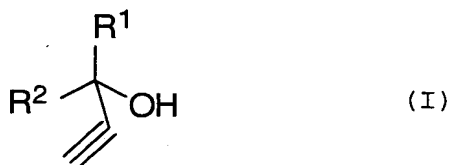


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ART 34 AMDT

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We claim:

1. A process for preparing acetylene alcohols of the general
5 formula I



where

- 15 R¹ and R² may be the same or different and are each independently hydrogen, a saturated or a mono- or polyunsaturated C₁-C₃₀-alkyl, aryl, cycloalkylalkyl or cycloalkyl radical, each of which may optionally be
20 substituted, or a group of the general formula (II)



where

- 30 R³ and R⁴ may be the same or different and are each independently hydrogen or a saturated or a mono- or polyunsaturated C₁-C₃₀-alkyl, aryl, cycloalkylalkyl or cycloalkyl radical, each of which may optionally be substituted, and the dashed line may represent an additional double bond,

- 35 by monoethynylating a ketone of the general formula R¹-CO-R² by

- (a) reacting lithium with a C₁-C₁₀-alkyl halide
40 (b) feeding in acetylene gas
(c) adding the ketone.

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2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction of lithium with the C₁-C₁₀-alkyl halide is carried out in the presence of catalytic amounts of naphthalene or 4,4'-di-tert-butylbiphenyl.

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3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the ketone used is selected from the group of acetone, methyl vinyl ketone, β -ionone, tetrahydrogeranylacetone, 6-methylheptanone, hexahydrofarnesylacetone, diethyl ketone, methyl ethyl ketone, cyclohexanone, methyl t-butyl ketone, pseudoionone, methylhexenone and H-geranylacetone.

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